THE

Caledonian Mercury

BEING

A ſhort Account of all the moſt conſiderable News, *Foreign* and *Domeſtic*.

Edinburgh, Munday September 2, 1723.

From the Evening Poſt, Auguſt 17.

Since our laſt arrived a Mail from Holland, 1 *from France, and* 1 *from Flanders.*

Porto-ferrajo, Auguſt 9.

TWO Days ago our Governour received Advice, That the Spaniſh Squadron, commanded by the Marquis de Mari, was off of this Iſland, with 16 Tranſports, having on Board 3 Battallions, with a conſiderable Quantity of Proviſions and Ammunition; we don't know how long that Squadron will be in that Station, mean while a ſtrict Guard is kept both in this City and along the Coaſt.

Venice, Auguſt 21. They write from Leghorn, that Capt. Scot of the Britiſh Man of War the Dragon, is ſailed for Algiers, to endeavour to obtain of the Regency of that Place, the renewing of the Paſports for the Ships of his Nation.

They write from Jamaica June 18, That the Caſſandra Pyrate Ship, which ſubmitted to the Governour of Porto Bello, as mentioned in our former, gave him one 4th Part of their Booty, the Reſt being divided among the Crew, conſiſting of 144, moſt of them Engliſh, is ſaid to amount to 1500 L. per Man.

London, Auguſt 27. On the 19th Inſtant died of the Small Pox at Bruſſells, aged about 30 Years, and much regreted for her exemplary Charity to the poor, and many other excellent Qualities, Mary Anne, Relict of James Ratcliffe, late Earl of Darwentwater, who was beheaded on Tower-hill, for High Treaſon, Feb. 24, 1716. She was Daughter of Sir John Webb Bart. and has left Iſſue 2 Sons. Her Corps was carried the Day after ſhe died, to Louvain, to be inttered there in the Church of the Engliſh regular Canoneſſes of St. Auſtin.

This Day at Noon S. S. Stock was 106, 3 qrs. Bank 121, 3 qrs. India 131, 1 half. African 11, 1 half. York Buildings 9, 5 8ths.

From

From the Whitehall Evening Poſt.

St. Jago de la Viga, May 30. Tueſday laſt being the Anniverſary of his Majeſty's Birth-day, the ſame was obſerved in this Town with all poſſible Demonſtrations of Loyalty and Joy. About Noon the moſt conſiderable Gentlemen of Eſtates, and Merchants in this Iſland, waited on his Grace at the King's Houſe, to pay him their Compliments on the Day, and to wiſh his Majeſty the Continuance of many Years, where they were graciouſly received, and were invited by his Grace to partake of an Entertainment in the Evening. About ſix o' Clock there was a very numerous Appearance both of Gentlemen and Ladies of the beſt Faſhion, who had the Honour to pay their Compliments to the Dutcheſs on this Occaſion. At the ſame time the regular Forces, together with the Troops of Horſe and Militia, were drawn up in the Parade before the King's Houſe, and his Majeſty and the Prince and Princeſſes Health were drunk, under the Diſcharge of 3 Volies both of great and ſmall Shot. Soon after a Bonfire erected in the Middle of the Parade was ſet on Fire, and a whole Pipe of Madera Wine, by his Grace's Order ſet abroach for the Entertainment of the Soldiers. About eight the Company was conducted to a very ſplendid Entertainment provided by his Grace: There were two Tables, the firſt was in the large Committee Room, where his Majeſty's Picture had been newly put up under a rich Canopy of blue Damask; at which Table their Graces ſat with about 60 Ladies, where every Thing was ſerved with the greateſt Magnificence, as well as the moſt exact Order.

The ſecond Table was placed in the Piazza next to the Garden, where ſat the Gentlemen of the beſt Faſhion, and was committed by his Grace to the Care of Mr. Provoſt-Marſhal, who fill'd his Station with great Applauſe. After Supper his Grace gave a Ball to the Ladies, which he began himſelf, and which laſted till Three: Next Morning, when the Company began to ſeparate; and his Grace with ſeveral Gentlemen, having the ſame loyal Healths, he was pleaſed to retire.

The Pleaſure which reſulted from the Occaſion, as well as from the Elegance of the Entertainment, was very agreeably heightned by that extraordinary Affability and Complaiſance, which their Graces were pleaſed to ſhew to all Perſons. And as it is the Ambition of all Ranks of People in this Iſland, to yeild to none in Point of Loyalty, ſo in the Opinion of very good Judges, this Aſſembly could only be exceeded by that of St. James's or Kenſington, on the ſame Auſpicious Day.

Yeſterday being the Anniverſary of King Charles II. happy Reſtoration, the ſame was obſerved with the uſual Demonſtrations of Joy.

From the Weekly Journal, or Saturday's Poſt.

A Letter from Mary J——ns, to the Author of Miſt's Journal.

SIR,

I AM if I live to the 13th of next Month, 18 Years of Age, and my Mother is 64; we have between us an Eſtate of near 20 *l.* a Year. The Curate of our Pariſh, brought us a Paper of your's, wherein you give Notice, That we muſt take 3 Oaths, or forfeit our Eſtates, if they are not regiſtred by ſuch a Time. I anſwered the Curate that I believed there was ſome Miſtake, for that my Father had bought the Eſtate near 20 Years ago, and honeſtly paid for it, and told my Mother, That no Body had any Thing to do with it; and that the Money being laid out in Land, ſhe could never loſe it. The Curate replyed, That you was a very honeſt Man, and would not put a Falſity in your Paper. My poor Mother takes on very much, and does nothing but cry every Day, ſhe wiſhes, that ſhe had died with my Father, for then ſhe had gone to the Grave, with the Satisfaction of having never taken an Oath in her Life.

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The Curate seeing her Uneasiness and great Desire to know the Nature of Oaths, sent her *a practical Discourse concerning Swearing*, wrote by *Dr. Wake* in the Year 1696, now Archbishop of *Canterbery*.

Dr. *Wake* observes, P. 67. *That as for those Oaths, which are imposed by publick Authority, the Subjects must yield to them in all honest and lawful Matters, and take such as he can with a safe Conscience.*

From this my Mother learns this much, that an Oath is not therefore safely to be taken, because imposed by the Publick Authority, because the Dr. says, That the Subjects Rule is, then to obey when he sees the *Honesty* and *Lawfulness* of the Matters in the Oaths.

The Dr. says, P. 109. *That to swear is not only truly an Act of Religion, but one of the most solemn Acts of it, and most apt to stir up in our Minds a fear of God and reverence of his Name, and that to do this lightly or unadvisedly, but especially to do it falsly, only to carry on our own Designs, or to promote our own Interest, at the Expence of God's Glory, must be not only horridly to prophane the Sacredness of an Oath, but to fly directly in the Face of God, and to bid Defiance to Damnation.*

Again, P. 15. The Dr. says, *That in the Case of an assertory Oath, he forswears himself, who swears to the Truth of any Fact, which at the same time, he either knows to be false, or does not know it to be true.*

It matters not whether a Man certainly knows, what he swears to be false, its enough that he does not know it to be true.

Again, P. 16. *A Man may forswear himself, not only by swearing to that which is altogether untrue, but by Prevaricating in any Thing, the least Circumstance of which he confirms with an Oath; as for Instance, if he swears to a Matter as certain, of which he has only a probable Assurance.*

Again, P. 17. *He that will swear with a good Conscience in any Oath of this Kind, must first consider duly what he is about to say, and then must proceed according to the strictest Measures of Truth and Fidelity, must deliver what is certain, as certain, what is doubtful, as doubtful, &c.*

Now Sir I declare to you sincerely, That neither my Mother nor I can take the Oaths if this Doctrine be true, without direct Perjury.

For in the first Place, we know nothing of the Honesty, or Lawfulness, of the Matters contain'd in the Oath of Abjuration; it may be very wrong, for any Thing we know: We don't know that every Thing which we are there to swear to, is true; which according to the Dr. is absolutely Necessary to secure us from the horrid and dreadful Guilt of Perjury.

We don't so much as understaad the Meaning of several Words in the Oath, much less are we capable, upon our own Knowledge to assert, That every thing there asserted, is strictly true and honest.

Now as I verily believe, that Dr. *Wake* has not been too rigid in the Terms of lawful Swearing; so I hope it will be no Offence in a Christian Country, to move in the humblest Manner, for some ghostly Counsel in so great an Affair of Conscience.

It is no Censure upon the Oath, That we poor Women want to know, what it means, and how its Meaning is true and honest before we venture to take it. What would we give, that we could without Offence apply our selves to this Reverend Father in God to know how we may see and be assured of the Truth of every Thing asserted in those Oaths?

His grace, when only Dr. *Wake*, has told us, *That to prevaricate in the least Circumstance of what we affirm, to swear to that for certain, of which we have only a probable Assurance, is to forswear our selves.*

What then must we do? must we be left to our selves, to be summoned from our Wheels, to swear only as Ignorance or Fears prompt us.

Surely, if I was of this good Archbishop's Diocess, I should either be taught how to swear according to the strictest *Measures of Truth and Fidelity*, or *be exhorted to refuse with Christian Integrity.*

It cannot satisfy that good Archbishop, nor any other pious Divine, to tell us, that we must inform our selves, for alas! we know not how to go about it.

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I hope, as Perjury is the moſt dreadful of all Sins, it will be thought worthy of the greateſt Men, who have the Care of Souls, to give us ſome publick Aſſiſtance, in the Caſe that ſo much affects our Salvation.

It is a new Thing for to be ſummoned to ſwear to that which never had entred into our Thoughts; but we muſt either *haſtily, unadviſedly*, and without Knowledge of the Truth of what we ſay, affirm ſuch Things upon Oath, or be liable to ſuch Penalties as, render us Beggars.

Either, therefore O ye Reverend Biſhops, let us have your Inſtructions how we may conſciencioufly Swear, without being aſſured, of the Truth of what we affirm, or exhort us to loſe all that we have rather than take an Oath in Ignorance.

Surey I ſhall not offend in deſiring this Chriſtian Aſſiſtance, and if there is any Spirit of Chriſtanity left, I ſhall be publickly informed, how the Truth and Honeſty of all that is affirmed in theſe Oaths, may be demonſtrated to the meaneſt Capacity. For I cannot ſuppoſe that the Legiſlature would make the Neceſſity of taking thoſe Oaths fall upon ſuch poor Creatures as I am, were not the Truth and Equity of them demonſtrable to common Senſe.

But as we are, by our Education, Strangers to every thing of that Kind, and I hope, the plainneſs of what is there affirmed, will be no Reaſon why ſome great Divines, ſhould not make them plainer to us. As this is no trifling Caſe of Conſcience, I hope the greateſt Men will not think themſelves at Liberty to diſregard it.

Was I, as ſoon as I am eighteen, to be ſummoned to ſwear, that the Goſpel of St. *John* was wrote by him,——would not my Ignorance of the Matter make it Perjury in me to ſwear it? And would not it be the Duty of the Head Paſtors of our Church, to comply with all ſuch as appeal'd to them for Help in that Caſe, either to inſtruct them how to ſwear with a full Aſſurance of the Truth, or to deter them, from the Guilt of ſuch Perjury.

This is all that I move for in the preſent Caſe: It may be as plain, that the Pretender *Has no Right or Title whatſoever*, as St. *John* wrote his Goſpel; but I am uninformed and uninſtructed in the Proof of either of them; and only beg, for the Sake of Virtue and Regligion, that I may be taught either to ſee the Truth of what I am to affirm by Oath, or be excuſed for not complying.

Dear Sir,

I Conjure you, as you have any Regard to Religon, to let my Complaint be heard in this Way, that no Biſhop or Biſhops may pretend, that we poor Creatures have not called for their paſtoral Care in this great Inſtance of our Diſtreſs. If the Tenderneſs and Ignorance of our Minds is to be diſregarded, it is our Unhappineſs to be born in Times where the Salvation of Souls is but of little Weight. If you don't ſuffer me to be read in your Paper, you muſt look upon your ſelf as one that may be entituled to ſome Share of my Complaint, as not lending me your Aſſiſtance in enquiring after Eaſe and Satisfaction of Conſcience.

Your moſt faithful humble Servant,

Mary J——n.

Wye's Letter verbatim, London Auguſt 27.

Amſterdam, Aug. 28. WE are informed by the laſt Ships which arrived here from the Eaſt Indies, that 11 Outward-bound Ships of our Company were ſafely arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, as were alſo 14 Engliſh, and had proceeded on their Voyage to the Indies.

Theſe Advices adde, That the Company of theſe Provinces continue their Trade with the Chineſe and Japaneze with greater Succeſs than ever: Which ſhews the Falſity of the late Report, That the Emperors of China and Japan had forbid all Commerce with the Hollanders.

Letters from Cadix ſay, an Expreſs was arrived there from Madrid with the agreeable News, That the King has given Leave for diſtributing to the Proprietors concerned in the two laſt Ships that came from Vera Crux, all the Gold and Silver that was brought for their Accounts, they paying all the uſual Cuſtoms.

The Emperor has not yet cauſed that Redreſs to be made to the Grievances of the Proteſtants which has been for ſome Years paſt ſo earneſtly ſolicited for by

by Great Britain and other Proteſtant Powers. And as to the Affair touching the Eſtabliſhment of the Oſtend Eaſt India Company, his Imperial Majeſty continues fix'd in his Reſolution to protect and ſupport them in their Trade, altho' the ſame is directly contrary to divers Treaties, and particularly that of the Barrier; of which his Britannic Majeſty is Guarrantee, and who will, no doubt, fulfil his Engagements.

Whether the Porte will be at laſt induc'd to break with the Emperor, we cannot abſolutely determine: Mean-time 'tis wrote from Conſtantinople, That the Turks are beginning to make freſh Preparations of War; and that Prince Ragotski, being returned from his late Journey Incognito, has had a private Audience of the Grand Vifier.

Some Accounts ſay, That the King of Poland has received Advice from good Hands, that ſeveral Grandees have entred into an Engagement with a certain Potentate, to exclude the Electoral Prince of Saxony for ever from the Succeſſion of Poland.

The Tumult at Meſſina is not as yet appeaſed, tho' ſeveral Citizens and Soldiers have been killed.

On the 11th Inſtant died the Reverend and Learn'd Mr. Bingham, who writ the celebrated Book entituled, *Origines Eccleſiaſticæ*. He was preſented by the late Dr. Ratcliff to the Living of Headbrou Worthy, which is now in the Gift of Univerſity College of Oxford.

Laſt Friday the Commiſſioners for building the 50 new Churches, after hearing ſeveral Objections, reſolved, That the Chapel in St. John's be made a Pariſh-church; and, that that of Clerkenwell be divided. There was preſent at the Board, the Biſhops of London, St. Aſaph and Carliſle, and Sir John Philips, Dean of the Arches. The ſaid Commiſſioners propoſed to finiſh in a Year's Time the Churches at Limehouſe, Ratcliff Highway, Spittlefields, Weſtminſter and Bloomſbury: the Eſtimates for doing the ſame amount to *L.* 25000. And Yeſterday they ordered, That the 4 following Churches be finiſhed out of hand, *viz.* that called St. Mary Woolwich, in Lombard-ſtreet; thoſe at Deptford, the Strand, Hanover Square. And likewiſe reſolved, to annex to the Pariſh-church of St. Mary le Strand, a certain Number of Houſes out of the Pariſhes of St. Martin's and St. Clement's.

Laſt Sunday night there was a Council of the Regency at the Cockpit, the Viſcount Harcourt officiating as Preſident.

Laſt Wedneſday the Lord Chancellor went to Leigh in Straffordſhire, the Place of his Nativity: He was met on the Road and conducted into Town, by a great many of the Gentry and Clergy; and at parting thence, he behaved with his uſual Generoſity: And on Saturday, ſet out for the Lord Ferrer's Seat at Hartly, near Utexeter.

This Morning the Duke of Cleveland's Gentleman ſet out for France, to bring over the Body of the Lord Charles Fitz-Roy, his Grace's 2d Son, who died lately at Paris of the Small Pox, in order to be interr'd in Weſtminſter Abbay.

One Thwait a Quaker, hath a Grant for the ſole making and vending a Machine for the Improvement of Spinning; with the Help of which, as much Work will be done in one Day, as in a Week without it.

S. S. Stock: 108.

Edinburgh, Sept. 2. We omitted in our Laſt to inform our Readers, That General Sabine was arrived here from England, in order to review the Troops here. The Royal North Britiſh Fuſileers paſt in Review before his Excellency on Monday laſt, and performed a very handſom Exereiſe before him, who ſeem'd very well ſatisfied therewith.

The ſame Day Lieutenant Rue, of the foreſaid Regiment, was magnificently interr'd in the Gray Friars, after the Military Way.

Haddingtoun, Auguſt 30, 1723.

Beſt Wheat 7 l. 10.	2d Ditto, 7 l. 2 ſh.	3d Ditto, 6 l. 16 ſh.
Beſt Bear 7 l.	2d Ditto, 6 l. 16 ſh.	3d Ditto, 6 l. 12 ſh.
Beſt Oats 5 l. 18 ſh.	2d Ditto 5 l. 12 ſh.	3d Ditto, 5 l. 6 ſh.
Beſt Peaſe, 6 l. 2 ſh.	2d Ditto 5 l 18 ſh.	3d Ditto, 5 l. 15 ſh.

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ADVERTISEMENT

*** Lost upon the 19th Instant, betwixt *Pitterween* and *Colinsbrough*, in the Shire of *Fife*, a large Silver hilted Sword, pretty long Blaid, with a broad Shoulder, a steel Hook, Silver Crampet, and slip Scabbard, whoever can give Notice thereof to the Author of this Paper, or to *Alexander Peck*, Merchant in *Pettinweem*, Mr. *Colin Bennet* in *Colinsbrough*, or give Information so as it may be got back, shall have half a Guinea Reward, without asking Questions.

THESE are to give Notice, to all Noblemen, Gentlemen, Merchants and others, that have Occasion to transport themselves or Goods for *London*, in the *Unity Packet-Boat* of *Leith*, *George Thomson* Master, now lying in the Harbour of *Leith*, clear to take in Goods, and will sail for *London* precisely the 20*th* Day of *September* 1723, Goods or no Goods, Wind and Weather serving, having good Accomodations for Passengers, and good Entertainment in the said Ship *Unity*: The Master is to be spoke with when at *Edinburgh*, at the *Laigh-Coffee-House*, and at his House in *North-Leith*.

THERE is a Piece of Silver Plate, 25 Pound Sterling *value, set out by several Noblemen and Gentlemen, to be Run for at* Peebles *on the usual Ground, upon the first* Wednesday *of October next, being the 2d Day of that Month, by any Horse, Mare or Guelding, each of them to carry eight* Scots *Stone Trois Weight, allowing Whip, Saddle and Bridle to be Part of the Weight: The best in three Heats, each Heat thrice round.*

The Horses which are to run for this Plate being three at least, belonging to several Owners, must be at Peebles *ten Days before the Race, and to be entered there by the Town-Clerk, fourteight Hours before the Course, and the Inputs to be 6 Guineas amongst them. No Crossing nor Jostling to be allowed, and all Disputes are to be determined by the Judges appointed by the Gentlemen Subscribers for the said Plate.*

The Distance Post is to be ten Score Yards from the starting Post.

The Rider after each Heat, is to take off his Saddle himself, and carry it with him the Moment he dismounts to the Scales, and is to be allowed in weighing, a Pound for waste.

Half an Hour is allowed at the End of each Heat for rubbing.

If any single Horse, Mare or Guelding wins the first two Heats, and if they are challenged by any of the rest who saved their Distance, they are obliged to run again; and if they save their own Distance they win the Race, if distanced they lose it.

If three single Horses win each of them a Heat, the Horse that wins the last Heat wins the Plate.

If any Horse, Mare or Guelding runs on the wrong Side of any of the Posts, they are to run back the same Way and run right, or else they are to be adjudged as distanced.

This Plate being lately advertised to be on the last *Wednesday* of *August*; and the Time being too short for Gentlemen and Horses to be ready against that Day it was thought proper to alter the Course to the first *Wednesday* of *October* next.

EDINBURGH:

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